GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2945
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2016
Check on Prices of Meals in Trains
Chinnayan Shri S.Selvakumara

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee, headed by R.D. Sharma, has suggested that the Railways take a slew of steps to check exorbitant pricing of meals served in trains and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the committee has also suggested that meals may be priced in the multiples of Rs. 10 where vegetarian standard meal can be priced at Rs. 50 and non-vegetarian meal at Rs.70;
(c) if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the decision taken by the Railways on these suggestions?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (d): A Committee, headed by Chief Commercial Manager/Central Railway, Shri R.D. Sharma, was set up to consider the recommendations of Dr. Sreedharan Committee's Report to handover catering to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and to examine the entire gamut of issues related to Catering services. The steps recommended by the Committee to check overcharging inter-alia include (i) Sale of a-la-carte items on trains shall be done through e-catering only to mitigate the passenger complaints on overcharging and ensure availability of standard meals during travel. (ii) Zonal Railways and IRCTC should promote sale of Ready to Eat (RTE) items on Maximum Retail Price to provide choice to passengers. (iii) The standard meals shall be priced in multiples of ? 10/- to check overcharging. Zonal Railway shall be empowered to include variety of items including regional cuisine in the standard meals, within the set price limit. (iv) Proliferation of e-catering where passengers get a wider choice at pre-fixed competitive prices. (v) Rationalizing the prices of catering items to prevent overcharging and revision of catering rates in line with inflation (vi) Adequate supervision powers to Zonal Railways over IRCTC.
Improvement in catering services as suggested by the Committee is an ongoing process. However, recommendation relating to proliferation of e-catering services has been announced in Rail Budget 2016-17 and phased introduction of station based e-catering at all A1 and A category stations has been started for widening the range of food options available to passengers.

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